

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 10, 1999

The Speaker of the

House of Representatives

Sir:

I ask the Congress to consider expeditiously the enclosed request for an emergency FY 1999 supplemental appropriation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. As I announced on Saturday, this request for \$372 million will help the people and communities devastated by the terrible tornados that hit Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Tennessee and provide for other disaster relief needs.

The details of this request are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. I concur with his comments and observations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent upward stroke on the letter 'i'.

Enclosure



THE DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

May 10, 1999

The President

The White House

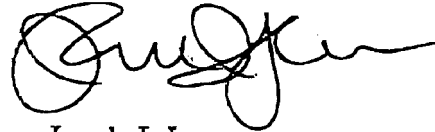
Submitted for your consideration is a request for an emergency FY 1999 supplemental appropriation for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The \$372 million requested would provide funds for emergency expenses resulting from the tornadoes and severe storms that hit Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Tennessee last week and other disaster relief needs.

As you saw on Saturday, the destruction caused by the tornadoes is devastating. In your radio address that day you remarked: "There are some challenges that no individual – indeed, no community – can handle alone. And on these occasions the national government must act quickly, effectively, compassionately." You announced that you would ask the Congress to act quickly on this request for \$372 million for FEMA's disaster relief fund.

This funding supports relief efforts already underway in the areas affected by this disaster. Emergency assistance and support is available from several other Federal Departments and agencies, including the Small Business Administration, the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, and the Treasury, and the Office of Personnel Management.

I have carefully reviewed this proposal and am satisfied that it is necessary at this time. Accordingly, I join Director Witt in recommending that you transmit the proposal to the Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacob J. Lew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jacob J. Lew
Director

Enclosure

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Disaster Relief

For an additional amount for "Disaster Relief" for emergency expenses resulting from tornadoes and other disasters, \$372,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be available only to the extent that the President designates an amount as an emergency requirement as defined in section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended: Provided, That the entire amount is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to such Act.

This request would provide supplemental funding to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for its emergency response and recovery efforts associated with tornadoes and severe storms in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Tennessee, and other disaster relief needs. The supplemental funds are requested on a contingency basis.